

# SCHOOL NOTES

MAY 2008

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

## SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

### May 20 Technology Levy Ballots Mailed

Ballots for the Port Angeles School District technology levy vote were sent to voters through the U.S. Postal Service on April 30 and must be postmarked by May 20 to be counted.

Of course there are many reasons for the Port Angeles School District board of directors to place a technology levy before voters on May 20, but the overall reason for such a levy is to help our children learn what they need to know to live and work in a world that is changing rapidly day by day.

"Technology....where to begin! I can't even begin to think about what my life would be like without computers. Computers provide me with a way to create professional documents such as my senior culminating project, a professional portfolio for a marketing assignment and job applications. Access to the Internet allows me to find answers to my questions at the drop of a hat. My daily life would be almost near impossible without the technology we have today." Katie Arredondo, Port Angeles High School senior (pictured with PAHS teacher Lora Brabant).

See *Levy News and Technology Levy: Frequently Asked Questions* at [www.portangelesschools.org](http://www.portangelesschools.org)

### District Budget Balancing Challenges

"The district is projecting about a half a million dollars will need to be cut from the 2008-09 budget after staff formula reductions," Superintendent of Port Angeles Schools Gary Cohn said. "We're estimating another drop in student enrollment by approximately 100 students next year, followed by an additional drop of 120 in 2009-10. Student enrollment decline, the reduction of the levy equalization funds from the state, increased transportation costs, and cost of living adjustments for all staff add up together to cause the current budget situation."

"Our district is not the only one to face these challenges," he added. "In fact, Paul Rosier, Executive Director of Washington Association for School Administrators (WASA), reports that the 2008 legislative session created a major financial dilemma for school districts just in the area of employee salaries and benefits. Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) ranging from 5.13% for certificated employees to 5.83% for classified staff will result in a state-wide shortfall of approximately \$100 million,



\$61 million for certificated employees and \$39 million for classified employees. Rosier noted that the shortfall will need to be addressed through local funds and other non-state funding."

The district's Fiscal Advisory Committee, a long standing committee appointed by the superintendent, was reconvened in February 2008 to analyze the district's financial position, study the continued enrollment decline, assess the additional uncertainty of state funding, and make educational program reduction recommendations. Cohn expects the committee to report its findings on May 5.

At a study session on April 28, Dr. Mark Jacobson, Executive Director of Business and Operations, shared a snapshot of the committee's progress with the board. Modifications addressed in the list were reducing para-educator positions, eliminating a Central Services secretary position, increasing pay-to-pay fees, increasing facility rental fees, charging for distribution of flyers, cutting all day kindergarten and restructuring bus routes.

Cohn urged caution in evaluating the list, emphasizing that it was a draft for discussion purposes only and not yet a recommendation of the committee. "This is a work in progress," he explained. "The committee has more research and analysis to do before presenting its report to the board." The final report will be posted to the district website.

Cohn also asked board and audience members to help others understand the operating budget situation is not directly connected to the technology levy. "The tech levy can't be used to make up for operating budget shortfalls," Cohn explained.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 5**

*Regular School Board Meeting*  
7:00 p.m.  
Central Services Building

**May 8**

*All-City String Review*  
7:30 p.m., PAHS Gym  
Grades 4-12

**May 19**

*Regular School Board Meeting*  
7:00 p.m.  
Port Angeles High School Library

**May 20**

*Technology Levy Vote*

**May 26**

*Memorial Day Observance*  
*School not in session*

**June 16**

*Last Day of School*

### LISTEN IN

Newsradio 1450 KONP broadcasts live interviews with Port Angeles District staff and students on the third Tuesdays of the month during the school year at 1:05 p.m. On May 20, host Todd Orloff will speak with PAHS students about their high school experiences. *Listen Live*, or download the podcast from:

[www.konp.com](http://www.konp.com)

### ELIST

You can sign up to receive school district news and updates via ELIST email newsletter by visiting the district's website: [www.portangelesschools.org](http://www.portangelesschools.org). Look for "Mailing List" sign up instructions on the home page.

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Due to one snow day this year, the last day of school will now be Monday, June 16 unless the district needs to call for additional weather related closures.

### Community Conversations

Port Angeles school board members invite the public to Community Conversations, an opportunity to ask questions or discuss issues one-on-one with them and district administrators tonight, Monday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m., in the Port Angeles High School Library, 304 East Park Avenue, followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular school board meeting.

### Spelling Bee Finals At City Hall

Soroptimist International of Port Angeles-Jet Set members will orchestrate their annual spelling bee for Port Angeles School District fourth graders on Thursday, May 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Port Angeles City Hall Council Chambers. Join us in supporting our fifteen finalists from each of the elementary schools!

### Music Concerts Coming

Port Angeles High School music groups are celebrating students' year long progress and successes with upcoming music concerts. Admission is free and community members are invited to attend the concerts, which all begin at 7:30 p.m.:

- Monday, May 19, Bands
- Tuesday, May 20, Orchestras
- Wednesday, May 21, Choirs

### All-City String Review

The district's strings students, grades four through 12, will perform together in this annual concert on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Port Angeles High School's Main Gymnasium. Free and open to the public.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM REQUESTS SALARY INCREMENT HOLD

The Port Angeles School District leadership team, which consists of assistant superintendents, principals, and other positions at supervisory levels throughout the district, united in requesting of school board of directors to forego their salary increments in anticipation of tough budget cuts for the 2008-09 school year. Generally, longevity/experience increments are built in to salary schedules and applied yearly

The leadership team wrote, "In view of the tremendous budget pressures, enrollment decline, and the legislative cost of living adjustments not being fully funded, and other unfunded mandates, and in appreciation of support provided by the school board to help wages continue to be competitive with other districts of similar size, we ask the school board to forego our longevity experience increments in the interest of contributing to the district's financial health."

"It's a very generous move on behalf of our leadership team," Superintendent of Port Angeles Schools Gary Cohn said. "Each member works incredibly hard on behalf of students and staff. I intend to share the team's request with school board directors and recommend that they accept this proposal for 2008-09."

If the school board of directors accepts the leadership team proposal, the district could save about \$33,768.

## PAHS STUDENTS MEDAL AT WASHINGTON STATE SKILLSUSA COMPETITION

Twenty-nine students and six teachers from Port Angeles High School attended the Washington State SkillsUSA Skills and Leadership Conference April 24-26 in Olympia. The conference featured 1,000 high school students from throughout the state competing in over 55 competitions. PAHS students were successful and four took home medals in their respective contests. Mason Bially won gold in Technical Drafting; Nathan Dawley, silver in Precision Machining; Holly Earl, gold in Nurse Assisting; and Riley Lee-Card, bronze in Job Interview.



Mason Bially, Riley Lee-Card, Nathan Dawley and Holly Earl, PAHS SkillsUSA State Medalists

Bially and Earl, who won gold, are now invited to attend the National SkillsUSA conference in Kansas City, Missouri in June.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS!

A new state program can help 7th and 8th grade students plan for college. "The College Bound Scholarship is a financial aid program for students who are eligible to participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program," said Ann Daley, Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board. "It is designed to inspire students to begin making their college and career plans without worrying about the cost of attending college."

To see if your student is eligible and to apply online, go to: [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound). Assistance is available from the Stevens Middle School counselors. Call Stevens Middle School, 360.452.5590. Current eighth graders will need to apply by June 1.

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## TIM WEED, CLASS OF 1996

"Port Angeles has a great arts community and a history of arts and music education that I feel very privileged to have benefited from," says Tim Weed, 1996 graduate from Port Angeles High School.

"My first violin teacher, Jodee Ahman, and music director, Ron Jones, were both big influences in my life both musically and personally," Weed adds. "One of my favorite memories is from the fourth grade at Franklin Elementary School. My teacher, Mr. Burnett, who is also a great guitar player, helped me learn a fiddle tune. We worked on it after school for a while and then played it for a student assembly. I had a lot of fun doing that!"

Weed also was a member of the PAHS cross country team and the Civil Air Patrol, and in addition, had the opportunity to play violin in the Youth Orchestra and Port Angeles Symphony Orchestra. "It was really great getting to be a part of so many activities," he explains.

Weed graduated from Biola University in 2001 with a degree in violin performance, and currently lives in Boston with his wife Sharon, where he teaches music for the Belmont and Needham Public Schools. "I've also had the privilege of traveling throughout the country playing music of all sorts of styles," he says. "I especially enjoy playing jazz rock and country and have had the opportunity to share the stage with many well known artists."